



The Hartford News

December 10 – 16, 2020



Two Angels

For Carrie Howe and Jendayi Miller, the season of giving is year-long

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Never underestimate the power of a woman. And where there is a woman with the seed of an idea planted at an early age, a fierce determination to bring it to fruition, and a tireless energy and compassion for helping those in need, the results can be powerful and long-reaching. Here in Hartford, two such women are making a difference in the lives of the hungry, the homeless, and especially the city's children 24/7 and 365. They do it without fanfare, but at this time of year the Hartford News puts the spotlight on two "angels" and their missions deserving of recognition.

NIGHT ANGELS

Carrie Howe's story begins when she was 14 years old and living on Sigourney Street. "I had to take the trash out late one night. A guy grabbed me and tried to assault me, but a homeless man nearby was going through the trash and came to my defense. What's ironic is that I'd noticed him when I got out there and was wary of him. It made me realize that people you assume are going to act a certain way are not what you think." The incident left a powerful impression on the teen. Fast-forward to 10 years ago, when spurred on by the plight of the underserved city residents she encountered every day, she formed Night Angels. It started as a one-woman initiative to feed and clothe the "street people" and help them find shelter, and to search out and distribute the goods and services for those who were housed who were in danger of falling through the cracks. She drove through the night seeking out the city's homeless, bringing food and warm items to help them weather lives spent outdoors. Howe also put out a call for unwanted household goods and furnishings which she then delivered to grateful recipients. The response was so great she had to rent a storage space to store them. Her work soon attracted volunteer angels, who also went on the rounds with her. "The most beautiful thing about Night Angels is that it's people helping people. There's been a revolving door of volunteers for 10 years of beauty and love."

For the past six years, Carrie & company have also had a Christmas wish list program. "It's very time-consuming, but we hear from DCF, the local shelters, the hospitals, and the schools where the need is greatest. During our biggest year 400 wishes were fulfilled." In 2019, the wish list focused on seeing if it could

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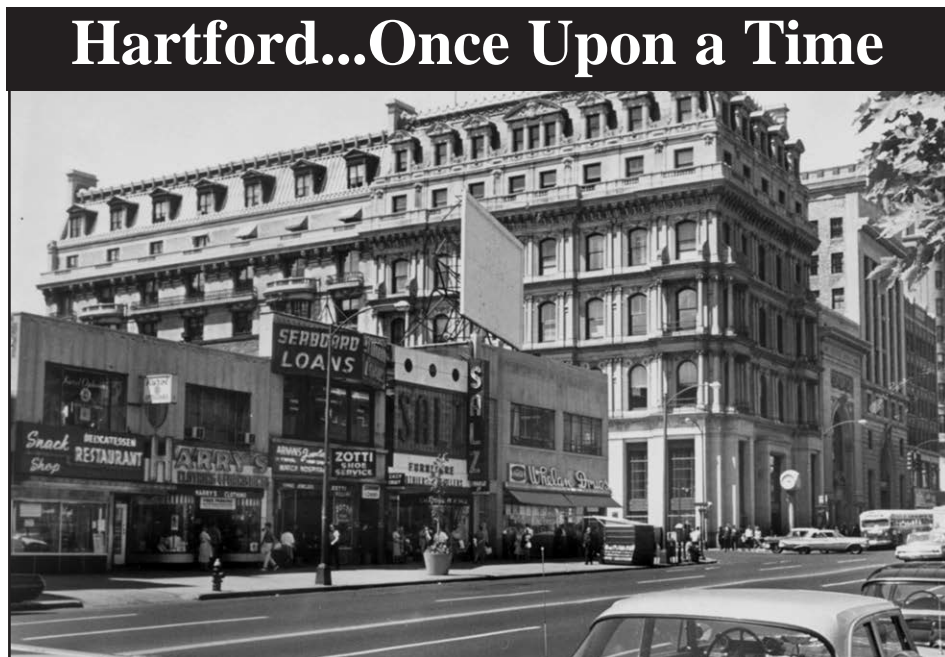


Analeh Toy Drive Collects Over 600 Gifts

Despite Saturday's rain and snow, the Analeh Holiday Toy Drive went ahead as planned and collected dozens of toys for local children. In total, over 600 toys have been collected this year, and approximately \$3,500 was donated to buy even more. El Show de Analeh, hosted by Ana Alfaro, (above, second from right) is a popular regional Latino variety television program which airs every Saturday at 11 a.m. on Univision and UniMas Channel 18. For the past 10 years, the toys were collected at the Analeh show's annual gala, but it couldn't be held this year due to the pandemic. So a drive-thru collection was held today and last weekend at the Hispanic Health Council on Main Street in Downtown Hartford. (Hart photo)

Rally Saturday to Protest Police Betting Pool

A "Rise Up Hartford Rally" will be held this Saturday, December 12, at 1 pm at Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street, to protest a betting pool that was reportedly proposed by Hartford Police Detective Jeffrey Placzek. The message allegedly sent by Placzek invited 19 people, HPD members and others, to bet on the location of the first Hartford homicide in 2021. The betting pool was first made public on Kevin Brookman's "We The People" blog late last week. On Monday, December 7, Hartford Police Chief Jason Thody announced that Placzek has been reassigned and faces demotion and a four-month unpaid suspension. 16 other members of the HPD detective unit are also being investigated for how they responded to Placzek's original text. Exposure of the betting pool sparked anger throughout the Hartford community. "As a longtime supporter of our police, I have to say that gambling on the life and death of Hartford residents is not just a breach of this officer's oath but a heinous breach of any possible trust and faith our community can and should have in HPD," said Council President Maly Rosado.



This 1963 photo shows Main Street in Downtown Hartford, looking north toward the Pearl Street intersection. The buildings at left (including the Snack Stop Restaurant, Harry's Clothing, Zotti Shoe Service, Seaboard Loans, Salz Furniture and Whelan Drug) were demolished to make way for the "Gold Building." The buildings at right were replaced by the Connecticut National Bank Building. At far right is the sole survivor, the Corning building at the corner of Main and Asylum Streets. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center; Hartford Public Library)

NEWS BRIEFS

Hartford City Church Toy Give-Away Dec. 13

Hartford City Church will hold a special drive-thru toy give-away from 1 - 3 pm on Sunday, December 13, in the parking lot of the Ukrainian-American Home, 961 Wethersfield Avenue, near the Wethersfield town line. Rain date for the event is Sunday, December 20. A free toy will be given to each child (up to age 12) while supplies last. Please remember to wear your mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

Donate to the City of Hartford Toy Drive

The City of Hartford will be accepting items for its annual Holiday Toy Drive through Tuesday, December 15. New, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-17 can be dropped off during regular business hours, Monday-Friday at the following Hartford locations: Hartford Public Safety Complex, 253 High Street; Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street (Room 203); Urban League of Greater Hartford, 140 Woodland Street. There will be a drive-thru distribution of the toys to city youngsters on Saturday, December 19, from 11 am - 2 pm at Martin Luther King, Jr. School, 25 Ridgefield Street and The Learning Corridor, 15 Vernon Street. Toys will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parent or guardian must show proof of Hartford residence with a driver's license, city or state ID or utility bill.

Free Food Distribution at Rentschler Field

FoodShare of Greater Hartford is continuing its bi-weekly distribution of free food packages to those who have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Food distribution will be from 8:30 am - 12 noon every Tuesday and Thursday through December 22 at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford. There will be one allocation of food per vehicle so that as many people are fed as possible. To make a donation to FoodShare so that it can continue this service, go to <http://site.foodshare.org/> and click "DONATE."

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Two Angels

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help foster parents (She recently became a therapeutic foster parent herself). That year, the Night Angels were connected through DCF with a 17-year-old boy in foster care. He had a heart condition and his prognosis for survival was not good. A wrestling fan, his wish was to go to a WWE wrestling match. So she put it out on the Night Angels Facebook page. “WWE called and he was taken to two events. Wrestlers also sent him videos, gave him an Xbox and wrestling games, and one famous wrestler did a video just for him”. Another memorable instance stands out. In Night Angels first year she received a call about a couple and their three children under age 5 who’d been staying at a hotel, and were kicked out with all their possessions left on the curb. After posting it on her Facebook page donations of diapers, milk, and other necessities came in. Next, she called 211 and was told there was no shelter available for a family of five. “I don’t like to take ‘no’ for an answer. I don’t believe there’s never another option”. After two days of calling every shelter in the state she found a place in Danielson and planned to bring the family and their possessions there, but her vehicle was too small to carry that load. Again, social media did the trick. “A West Hartford couple that was going on vacation called, and said they were leaving me the keys for their SUV.” The family was transported through the help of a trusting, caring stranger. Another time, a wheelchair-bound Hartford shelter resident was kicked out. Howe got a call that he was on the curb and his electric chair would not charge. She went to see him and pushing the chair, took him to get something to eat. After putting out a post for the donation of an electric chair, it was answered by a man whose mother had recently passed on, and was happy to give it away.

Carrie Howe is also currently the Coordinator of the soup kitchen at Center Church on Gold Street, a 6-hour per week job. “We’ve been dubbed the ‘Center Angels’”. They feed 60-100 people every Sunday, and also provide 60 Sunday meals for the Milner overnight shelter on Vine Street. The soup kitchen is always in need of volunteers. Carrie Howe said “We don’t need to be a non-profit to be human. The point is to connect people and give them opportunities to become human.”

For more information on volun-

teering or donating to Night Angels, call Carrie Howe at 860-778-1210, or email nightangelsrus@yahoo.com.

ANGEL OF EDGEWOOD



Jendayi (“give thanks” in Swahili) Miller has lived most of her life on Edgewood Street. Asked when she first got the idea of feeding the hungry, she responded “My whole life! It was already embedded in me for as long as I can remember.” As part of a large extended family, she grew up with the notion that it was a duty – a calling – to provide food for those in need. Her father and grandfather were both chefs. “They were all about the community, and were known for feeding the neighborhood. There was always cooking going on at home, and family members would then drop off meals where they knew the people who lived there didn’t always have enough to eat.” After a diagnosis and battle with uterine cancer in 2019, through surgeries and a long, restrictive recovery process, Miller was moved to take action earlier this year during the COVID-19 pandemic. “CRT and Meals on Wheels cut back on their services, and the senior centers were closed. There was nobody delivering food to seniors.” Jendayi was still limited in her activities, but she wanted to do something: She wanted to cook and get the food out to those who needed it. Her family protested her taking on this effort, but she was determined. She did the cooking and found volunteers to deliver it. “I started out providing meals for about a dozen people a day, and that grew to 70 people a day.” She and her husband bought the supplies at their own expense, but as the word got out, donations started coming in. Cars would pull up in front of her house and strangers would appear at her door, pressing bills into her hand. “Mostly, they were people who remembered my grandparents—doctors, lawyers, church members—and all they’d done to help out the community back in the day. They’d tell me ‘You’re doing more than the churches or corporations’”. Eventually, Angel of Edgewood ended up with 60-70 volunteers to deliver the meals. And their generosity expanded to delivering needed items for weathering the virus. “We now have A PPE team in addition to

the food prep and packing teams.” Diapers and soap have also been added to the list. Miller even gets calls from out-of-state people who have elderly family members living in the Greater Hartford area who send donations and request that food be delivered to their relatives. As a result, Angel of Edgewood now distributes 350-450 meals every week. “I do this 7 days a week, night and day.” She explains that after taping a recent story about her mission to be aired on Fox Channel 61, the reporter asked what the name of her group was. She told him she didn’t have one. Pressed to come up with one for the story, she was at a loss. Thus she was taken by surprise when she tuned into the news and saw the station had titled the piece “Angel of Edgewood”; it stuck.

With the growth spurt in meal prep and delivery, Jendayi’s home kitchen is no longer sufficient for the work that needs to be done. Now she’ll be moving into an independent kitchen space at the former Swift Factory in the North End, where several local food entrepreneurs have already found a home. The challenge now is to outfit her space there with the necessary cooking and storage equipment. With so many restaurants closing, used items for sale aren’t that hard to find, but commercial stoves are still very expensive, running into the thousands of dollars. So when she found out about a six-burner two-oven stove for sale in Ohio for \$1500, her husband made the one-day round trip from Hartford to check it out. The seller was a VFW post, and the stove was in brand-new condition. When the post Commander heard that it would be used to prepare free meals for those in need, he dropped the price to \$600, and also offered more help from his organization toward Angel of Edgewood’s efforts in the future. With the assistance of HPD Homeless Outreach Officer Jim Barrett, Angel of Edgewood gets meals out to the unsheltered street people. With her permission, Barrett also gives her phone number to them; they call and tell her where they are, and she delivers the food to them. And this winter, she’ll be cooking and delivering meals to those at Hartford’s warming centers and shelters.

Jendayi Miller and Angel of Edgewood volunteers are also sponsoring the 1st Annual Project Angel Wings, that will be providing holiday dinners, toys, and gifts to children and to adults with disabilities. She stresses that as of publication time it’s not too late to seek sponsorships or to provide children’s wish lists.

To contact Jendayi Miller about volunteering or donating to Angel of Edgewood, please email angelofedgewood@gmail.com



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Guest Column from Patti Beckett

NOTE: The following was written by Patti Beckett, an active member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

A fairly new organization that includes about 40 churches, synagogues, and mosques in the Greater Hartford area (close to 40 current members). GHIAA stands for Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance and works toward better justice for some of the biggest prob-

lems that members want to address. forward in their lives and become tax paying productive citizens.

I am in favor of both of these initiatives and wonder how we can get information about these issues across the state. With the pandemic, meetings to inform the public about these issues have had to be put on the back burner. I’m thinking that the best way to inform the public is to have numerous public interest stories in papers across the state to introduce

Once they have paid their debt to society, they are entitled to a second chance to move forward in their lives and become tax paying productive citizens.

lems that members want to address.

This year there are two big issues they are working on.

1. To repeal welfare liens. We are one of two states left who still have this law on our books, this requires people who have received welfare benefits to repay them, which as you can imagine is a huge obstacle to getting ahead once they have a job, inherited money or win the lottery. It also dampens the motivation to improve their lot in life.

2. Another initiative is Clean Slate legislation. That as you probably already know means that after a certain length of time, people who have re-entered society have their records expunged which makes it possible for them to obtain housing, jobs, and other means of entering society (which they often can’t do with any criminal record). Once they have paid their debt to society, they are entitled to a second chance to move

the general public to the problems that these restrictive measures currently have on some of our citizens. Perhaps there are better ways, what would they be? I suspect that in many cases, these laws were originally enacted as a racially motivated way to keep some people from achieving success. However, they are not really just a black or white issue, but one that affects all people who for one reason or another are down on their luck or due to the luck of the draw where they were born. If we could get them more productive and feeling they had an opportunity to achieve more, they could become contributing members of society and also become tax paying citizens.

We are hoping that the State Legislature will take up these issues in its upcoming session.

Anyone who is interested in more information about GHIAA should email to Cori Mackey at cmackey@cljct.org.

Urban League To Honor Local Leaders At Virtual Celebration Tonight

The Coronavirus isn’t stopping The Urban League of Greater Hartford (ULGH) from hosting its 56th Equal Opportunity Day Celebration (EOD), the organization’s signature fundraising event. This year, the traditionally black-tie affair will be held virtually this Thursday, December 10, with a 5:30 p.m. pre-event reception, a 6:00 p.m. formal program featuring an impressive roster of speakers and honorees, and closing with a virtual dance party. Everyone is invited to enjoy the live stream telecast by going to www.ulgh64.org or www.facebook.com/ulgh64.

“The EOD serves as a platform for the Urban League to celebrate the accomplishments of local leaders who demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunity and exhibit leadership in empowerment and social justice,” explains David Hopkins, President and CEO of the Hartford-based affiliate whose programs and operations impact more than 3,000 individuals and their families every year in the areas of youth development, adult education, workforce

development, economic enrichment, community health, and social justice.“ This year’s theme, “A Moment in the Movement,” celebrates the urgency of efforts, sacrifices, allies and aid made in 2020 in the midst of this longstanding fight for racial, social, health and economic equity for Black Americans.”

Charles Blow, columnist for The New York Times and CNN contributor, will have a keynote conversation with event host Jay Harris of ESPN. The virtual dance party will be hosted by Hot 93.7 radio’s DJ Craig G and Top Floor Entertainment. Thomas Barnes, Chairman of Barnes Group, Inc. in Bristol, Conn., is the Honorary Chair.

The following individuals will be honored during the event:

- Dr. Reginald Eadie, President and Chief Executive Officer of Trinity Health of New England
- Susan Gunderman, Director of Reentry Services for the City of Hartford

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THE HARTFORD NEWS

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Let’s Right a Wrong in 2021: Redlining and Car Insurance

OPINION BY DONNA SWARR

The Connecticut State Legislature is scheduled to assemble on January 6th. In the December 7th Hartford Courant, it stated that Representatives “Horn and Wood will oversee committees that deal with controversial issues.” These committees will be focused on gambling, revisions to last July’s special session on police accountability, and health care insurance.

While I believe that these topics are seriously in need of attention, let us not let go of some low hanging fruit; car insurance. For as long as I’ve been alive, auto insurers have charged higher than average premiums to drivers living in mostly Black and minority urban neighborhoods than to drivers with the same safety records living in mostly white neighborhoods. Insurers claim that the risk of accidents is greater in those neighborhoods. This is institutional racism. The term “redlining” refers to denial of services or products to minority

areas. While insurers claim they don’t discriminate, they do so by using the zip codes of urban areas that are most heavily populated by Black and Latino residents. This problem has been reviewed twice in

recent history by the State Legislature, but action was not taken. Let’s start working on this issue as of January 6th.

Kerry Wood of Rocky Hill has been assigned as the new co-chair of the Insurance and Real Estate committee, 860-240-8585, kerry.wood@cga.ct.gov. She would be someone who needs to be educated about the economic

discrimination that has been ignored for far too long. The CT Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus should be addressing this issue. Now is the time to write to your legislators and demand action. It’s hitting your bank account every month. Cut this out and mail it or copy and paste it into an email to your representatives ASAP.



The Holidays on Pratt Street

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Downtown Hartford particularly hard. Most office-workers have been working from home and almost all events, from shows at Hartford Stage and The Bushnell to UCONN basketball games at the XL Center, have been cancelled. To help Downtown restaurants and shops, the Hartford Chamber of Commerce held a “Home for the Holidays” event on Saturday, November 28, on Pratt Street. Dozens of vendors sold goods at the event and near-by eateries provided food and drink. As an added bonus, Emily Orzada (above) from the New England Ballet Theatre of Connecticut gave two performances for those in attendance. (Hart photo)



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2020 Hartford News & Hartford Chamber of Commerce

HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST NOMINATION FORM

The Hartford News and the Hartford Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a Hartford Holiday Decorating Contest this year for residences and businesses/organizations.

RULES: Nominations can be submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KFNMXFW>, or mailed or dropped off at Hartford News, 563 Franklin Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114. Winners will be chosen based on originality, effort and overall beauty. Judges will be from the staff of The Hartford News and the Hartford Chamber of Commerce. ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL. 4 residential day displays and 4 residential night displays will be chosen and 4 business/organization day displays and 3 business/organization night displays will be chosen from each area as winners.

DEADLINES: Mailed submissions must be postmarked no later than December 14, 2020. Nominations can be made online or dropped off in person no later than 5 pm on December 16, 2020. Nominations will be judged over the weekend of December 18-20. Winners will be announced online on Wednesday, December 23, and in the December 24th edition of the Hartford News.

PRIZES: Each residential winner will receive a \$50 gift card for Super Stop & Shop plus a sign to put on their lawn announcing that they are a winner. Each business/organization will receive a free ad in The Hartford News, plus a lawn sign.

For more information, call The Hartford News at 860-296-6128 or email hartfordnews@aol.com

NAME: _____
NOMINATED BY: _____

If you are nominating a person, business or organization aside from yourself, please secure their agreement to be nominated before submitting this form.

ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ e-MAIL: _____

☐ DAY DISPLAY ☐ NIGHT DISPLAY
☐ RESIDENTIAL ☐ BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION

AREA: ☐ NORTH ☐ CENTRAL ☐ SOUTH ☐ DOWNTOWN

ALL nominated homes and businesses must be located within Hartford city lines. For this contest, **NORTH** is all Hartford north of Albany Avenue and the railroad tracks. **CENTRAL** is all Hartford south of Albany Avenue; north of New Britain Avenue- Barnard Street - Maple Avenue - Wyllys Street - Charter Oak Avenue; and west of DOWNTOWN (see below). **SOUTH** is all Hartford south of New Britain Avenue - Barnard Street - Maple Avenue - Wyllys Street - Charter Oak Avenue. **DOWNTOWN** is all Hartford west of the Connecticut River; south of the railroad tracks and Albany Avenue; east of Edwards Street - Cogswell Street - Broad Street; and north of Maple Avenue - Wyllys Street - Charter Oak Avenue.

Please mail or drop off this form at **Hartford News, 563 Franklin Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114**. Mailed submissions must be postmarked no later than December 14, 2020. Nominations must be dropped off no later than December 16, 2020.

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Max Restaurants Raising Funds to Offer Holiday Meal for the Needy

Max Cares Foundation, Inc. has announced the 4th Annual Roasts for the Holidays campaign to raise funds to provide quality holiday meals for several shelters and soup kitchens in the Greater Hartford and Springfield regions. In addition, Max Cares Foundation will be holding a holiday meal bag distribution event to provide a complete dinner to 500 area households. Acknowledging the enormous impact the pandemic has had on our communities, The foundation has doubled its matching gift commitment to \$20K for 2020 in the hopes of serving more families experiencing food insecurity.

Diners at Max Restaurant Group locations and those ordering take-out at any of the award-winning Max Restaurants in the region will have an opportunity to make a donation to the Roasts for the Holidays campaign.

The in-restaurant and take-out giving drive will run now through December 18. People who would like to participate but are not able to visit a Max Restaurant during the two week period can make a tax-deductible donation via the foundation's website, www.max-caresfoundation.org. All funds raised up to \$20K will be matched by the Max Cares Foundation who will use the money raised to provide for area shelters and soup

kitchens.

Last year's Roasts for the Holidays was an astounding success raising \$30K to add to the \$10K matching grant. The \$40K went directly toward providing "Max-quality" holiday dinners to the underserved in the Greater Hartford and Greater Springfield areas. Richard Rosenthal, President of the Max Cares Foundation, states, "Guests of the Max restaurants went above and beyond last year to raise funds to provide food for a holiday meal for those in need in our communities."

Participating Max Restaurants include:

- Max Downtown, Hartford
- Max's Oyster Bar, Max Burger and Savoy Pizzeria & Craft Bar, West Hartford
- Max-A-Mia, Avon
- Max Fish, Glastonbury
- Max's Tavern, Springfield
- Max Burger in Longmeadow

Guests of the restaurants and those who pick up take-out and who are interested in participating in Roasts for the Holidays can simply add a charitable contribution to the check presented at the end of their meal in order for their donation to qualify for the Max Cares Foundation matching gift.

Urban League

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- June Archer, Motivational Teacher, Author and Community Empowerment Advocate
- Richard and Doris Sugarman, Chief Executive Officers of Hartford Promise and of The Connecticut Forum
- Dr. Joanne Berger-Sweeney, President of Trinity College in Hartford
- Archbishop LeRoy Bailey, Jr., Senior Pastor of The First Cathedral in Bloomfield
- Janice Castle, Director of the Office of Community Engagement for the City of Hartford

Attendance is free, thanks to the generous support of major sponsors that include: Webster Bank, Pratt & Whitney, Comcast; Barnes Group, Inc., Stanley Black & Decker, Bank of America, Delta Dental, Bob's Discount Furniture, The Root Center for Advanced Recovery, Liberty Bank, Key Bank, Eversource, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, Tito's Vodka, and Hartford HealthCare.

For event sponsorship opportunities, contact: Lois Stevenson, ULGH Resource Development Director at 860-728-4290 or events@ulgh.org. For general information about the December 10th virtual event, contact Kyrinda Richardson at 860-728-4291 or kyrinda@ulgh.org.



Poinsettia Tree Back at City Hall

Despite the resurgent COVID-19 pandemic, a Hartford tradition is continuing this year: the poinsettia Christmas tree is back in the atrium of City Hall. The 400 plants used to make the tree were purchased by the Elizabeth Park Conservancy and cared for in their greenhouses by City of Hartford Department of Public Works gardeners Guillermo, Vincent and Victor (above) until the "tree" was installed last week.



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Hartford Creative Contest Now Taking Submissions from Hartford Students

Hartford youngsters have a new outlet for their creativity. The Hartford Creative Contest will be accepting submissions of essays, poems and visual art based on one of the following three themes:

- Living through Covid-19: The good, the bad, and the surprises.
- Who is your racial justice hero, past or present, and why?
- The Super Power I'd choose and what I would do with it.

Submission will be accepted through March 6, 2021. The winners will be announced on April 25th or May 2 at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford. The grand prize winner will receive a \$500 prize. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will also be chosen in each category and each will receive a cash prize.

GUIDELINES

Accepted submissions can be in the form of an essay, poem, or artwork. All entries must relate directly to one of the above topics and follow these guidelines:

Essays: Must be TYPED on standard 8.5 X 11" paper and must be a minimum of 400 words and must not exceed 1,200 words

Poetry: Must be TYPED on standard 8.5 X 11" paper and must not exceed 2 pages.

Visual Art: Must be on paper or

canvas no larger than 18 X 24". ALL ARTWORK must be accompanied by a 100-250 word essay relating the work to the topic chosen

All submissions must be entrant's original work, not previously published.

Participation & Eligibility: Open to all Hartford residents grades 4 – 12, as well as non-Hartford residents attending Hartford schools

Judging: All work will be evaluated based on content, creativity and originality. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards given in each category.

Submit Electronically: You can submit your entry through the form on our website or email us at info@hartfordcontest.com

Mail or Hand Delivered: Submissions may be mailed/hand delivered to: Hartford Youth Essay Contest c/o Beckett Law LLC 543 Prospect Avenue Hartford, CT 06105

Categories: There are three categories Essays/ Poetry/ Visual Art

Sub-Categories: 3 grade-based sub-categories: grades 4 – 6, 7 – 9, and 10 – 12.

The Hartford Creative Contest is sponsored by: Mothers United Against Violence; Beckett Law LLC; The Mark Twain House & Museum; and Step Up, Step Out (SUSO).



Fraternities Helps Bring Holiday Cheer to North End

Reggie Hales (above, center), President of the Hartford Enterprise Zone Business Association and Publisher of the Hartford Inquirer, speaks at a press conference held last Thursday, December 3, to announce the return of holiday lights to key public spots in Hartford's North End. The event was held at ACA Foods Plaza, 3155 Main Street, Hartford. For 30 years, North End merchants have helped support the decorating project financially, but due to the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic, they were hard-pressed to do so this year. To make up the gap in funding, PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., Delta Pi Sigma Chapter; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, the Phi Delta Zeta Chapter and City Council members TJ Clarke and Shirley Surgeon stepped up to the plate and helped to provide the necessary funding. As a result, holiday lights are now in place at the intersection of Main and Windsor Streets and the Hartford/Windsor town line on Main Street. (Photo by Marc Yves Regis)

Volunteer Opportunities Available at Hands On Hartford

Hands On Hartford located at 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford is seeking volunteers for several upcoming activities.

Christmas Day and New Years Day Meals: Seeking volunteers help to clean and sanitize tables and chairs, assist with set up and break down, serve our meals (in take-out containers), among other tasks to

ensure that the meal runs smoothly. The time commitment is approximately from 9:30am-2:30pm.

Toy Shoppe Event, December 11th: Looking for volunteers to fill the following time slots: 12:30pm-4:00pm and 3:30pm-7:30pm.

Snack Bags: Looking for two groups of about 5 volunteers to make snack bags for our Christmas

and New Years meals. The first date is December 21st from 3-5pm and the second is December 28th from 3-5pm.

The Community Meals Program and MANNA Community Pantry is also seeking volunteers, Monday-Thursday during business hours.

For more information, call Hands On Hartford at (860) 728-3201.



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Computers for Hartford Schools

On Friday, December 4, the International WeLoveU Foundation East Coast Region (WeLoveU) delivered 120 devices, including webcams, Chromebooks and desktop computers to Hartford Public Schools to help close the homework gap and bridge the digital divide. The computers were presented to Hartford School Superintendent Leslie Torres-Rodriguez (above) at a ceremony outside Hartford City Hall. “Hartford Public Schools is deeply grateful for the partnership with the WeLoveU Foundation and Senator [Richard] Blumenthal,” she said. “Their commitment supports our goal of providing equity and access to all students.” The webcams donated to HPS will be used by teachers to support the delivery of online instruction, and the desktop computers will enable students to complete online coursework in the Hartford Public High School library. These donations support the goal of HPS to provide one-to-one district device access to all students so they can access online learning. To date, 95% of HPS students have a district-issued device. An estimated 50,000 students in Connecticut’s public schools are challenged with a learning curve that is out of their control: the homework gap — the inability complete assignments and do homework due to limited access to technology. In an effort to facilitate distance learning, the WeLoveU Foundation has made a commitment to donate necessary equipment to support students with these essential resources. The International WeLoveU Foundation is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Since its official launch in 2001, WeLoveU has acquired 300,000 volunteers in 51 countries and is working on charitable initiatives in more than 67 countries. (Hart photo)

Connecticut Becomes First State In Nation To Require High Schools Provide Courses On Black And Latino Studies

Governor Ned Lamont recently announced that Connecticut has become the first state in the nation to require all high schools in the state offer courses on African-American, Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino studies.

The requirement is the result of a law Governor Lamont signed last year – Public Act 19-12 – that directs all regional and local boards of education to include an elective course of studies at the high school level that provides students with a better understanding of the African-American, Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino contributions to United States history, society, economy, and culture. Last week, the Connecticut State Board of Education unanimously approved the curriculum for the course, which was a final step needed to implement the requirement.

High schools may offer the course in 2021-2022 and will be required to offer it during the school year that begins in the fall of 2022.

“Increasing the diversity of what we teach is critical to providing students with a better understanding of who we are as a society and where we are going,” Governor Lamont said. “Adding this course in our high schools will be an enormous benefit not only to our Black and Latino students, but to students of all backgrounds because everyone can benefit from these studies. This is a step

that is long overdue, and I applaud the work of the General Assembly, State Board of Education, and everyone at the State Education Resource Center whose collaborative work helped get this done.”

“Identities matter, especially when 27 percent of our students identify as Hispanic or Latino and 13 percent identify as Black or African-American,” Connecticut Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona said. “This curriculum acknowledges that by connecting the story of people of color in the U.S. to the larger story of American history. The fact is that more inclusive, culturally relevant content in classrooms leads to greater student engagement and better outcomes for all. This law passed due in large part to the strong advocacy of students from around the state and the legislative leadership of State Representative Bobby Gibson and State Senator Doug McCrory. I thank Ingrid Canady, the SERC team, and all of our partners who contributed to and drove us to this historic moment.”

The adopted curriculum focuses on a two-pronged, inquiry-based approach, including both content knowledge and student identity development. It utilizes Connecticut’s Social Studies Framework themes and inquiry-based approach already familiar to social studies teachers to deliver a content rich and personalized learning experience. The Connecticut State Department

of Education partnered with the State Education Resource Center (SERC) to develop the curriculum.

The development process was guided by a 150-member advisory group comprised of educators, administrators, higher education professors and scholars, national researchers and historians, representatives from education and community organizations, and studies and families. The group organized into nine committees with specific tasks. The work of each committee was facilitated by a SERC liaison to ensure seamless communication and workflow between committees.

Additionally, an expert review panel was convened, consisting of ten national and state-level experts to review course deliverables as they were developed and provide critical feedback and resources. Other opportunities for stakeholder involvement included providing feedback through surveys and focus groups.

“I am extremely proud of the passage of this bill,” State Senator Douglas McCrory (D-Hartford), co-chair of the Education Committee, said. “It was a humbling experience to hear students passionately call for the Black and Latino studies curriculum, and I thank them for it. Nelson Mandela once said, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,’ and I hope this new curriculum will facilitate a greater understanding and appreciation of the many contributions made by Black and Latino Americans.”

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Solomon Fredrick Davis
(20-00880)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 3, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith A. Miller
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lawrence M Davis
243 Terry Road
Hartford, CT 06105

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Sheila M. Harrington
(20-01109)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 4, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Michael Harrington
c/o Timothy R Keeney
Brown Paindirisi Scott
2252 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Javon Reynolds,
AKA Javon T Reynolds
(20-01073)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 2, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Markeita Reynolds
c/o Garrett Michael Moore
Moore, O Brien & Foti
891 Straits Turnpike
Middlebury, CT 06762

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Norma W. Moskey
(19-01313)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 1, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carl R. Moskey
943 Quaker Street
Henniker, NH 03242

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Denise S. Crompton
(20-00147)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 2, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Justin Lewis
155 Main Street, Suite 211,
Danbury, CT 06810

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Bernice Kennedy, AKA
Bernice Josephine
Kennedy (20-01118)

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Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Cherrion Kennedy Alford
c/o Paul H Lichtenberger
Paul H. Lichtenberger, Attorney
At Law,
1 Bestor Lane
Bloomfield, CT 06002

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Anne M Healey
(20-01055)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 3, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith A. Miller
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
William F Healey
c/o Martin Gould
Gould Killian LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Beverly M Holder
(20-01056)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 1, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith A. Miller
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Georgia Weaver
18 East Raymond Street
Hartford, CT 06112

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Fausto Antunes Da Costa
(20-01045)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 3, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Emilia Gil
20 Sage Rd
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Maria Sparmer
535 Old Colchester Rd,
Uncasville, CT 06382

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Vincenzo Zarcone
(20-00624)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 1, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq.,
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Rosalia Zarcone
110 Bond Street, Unit 4B
Hartford, CT 06114

News Briefs

Continued from page 1

Public Invited to Hartford NEXT Directors’ Meeting

The public is invited to attend the next Hartford NEXT Board of Directors virtual meeting on Thursday, December 17 at 6 p.m. To receive sign in information to attend either by computer or by telephone, please email hnxt@hartfordnext.org or call (860) 655-8390.

Virtual City Council Meeting Dec. 14

On Monday, December 14th, the Hartford Court of Common Council will hold a virtual public comment and City Council meeting via the WebEx platform. Public Comment will begin promptly at 6:00pm with the City Council meeting taking place shortly after. Language interpreter(s) for the hearing impaired can be available if requested in advance. These meetings will be broadcasted by Hartford Public Access Television with recordings made available on the HPA TV YouTube page. The meeting can be viewed at: Hartford Public Access Television, www.hpatv.org, HPA TV Facebook Page, or channel 96 for Comcast/Xfinity customers. To sign up to speak during the public comment session,

please contact David Grant (860) 757-9738, david.grant@hartford.gov. The deadline to register is 5:20 pm, Monday, December 14th. Once signed up, participants will be given a conference number and are asked to call in by 5:40pm to receive further instructions.

CRT Offers Job Training in Two Careers

The Community Renewal Team (CRT) is launching two career training programs through its affiliate YouthBuild USA. Residents of Hartford and East Hartford, ages 18-24, can train for a career in healthcare or construction. One program will qualify you as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or Medical Assistant; the second provides construction skills training with OSHA Certification. Both programs will provide a weekly stipend for trainees. A high school diploma is not necessary; you will receive assistance with obtaining your GED. For more information, call 860-560-5308, ext. 227.

Cafe at 55 to Close Temporarily Dec. 31

Hands On Hartford’s Cafe at Fifty-Five, 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford’s Parkville neighborhood, will close temporarily effective

December 31. The organization’s Caterers Who Care will also go on hiatus starting on December 31. Like most food service operations, the cafe has seen a deep decline in business due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cafe’s current hours of operation are Tuesday - Friday, 8 am - 3 pm. Dine in, patio seating and curbside delivery are available. Proceeds from the Café support Hands On Hartford’s charitable programs. When you buy one meal at the Café, you enable Hands On Hartford clients to enjoy many meals, through the MANNA Community Pantry, the Community Meals soup kitchen and day program, and the weekend Backpack Nutrition Program for Hartford children.


GOD ANSWERS ALL OUR PRAYERS

If anyone needs prayer call me at 860-561-4884 for more information. People can pray 24/7 but if you don't obey God's law God won't answer our prayers. I learned the Ten Commandments when I was a child in Italy and obeyed them. God answers all our prayers,"if we obey His law, and Jesus's teachings." Give it a try. Sins are one of the causes of fear, stress and sickness.


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295-297 Garden St. Hartford
Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650.

Room For Rent
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El Informativo Latino



De parte de Hartford News y La Diferente Radio les deseamos que esta Navidad sea brillante, traiga alegría, amor y encienda un Año Nuevo lleno de luz y esperanza. Felicidades.

~ Iris Rodriguez ~

Gobernador Lamont expande beneficios por desempleo a afectados por la pandemia del Covid 19

El gobernador está firmando una orden ejecutiva para permitir que miles de residentes de Connecticut que estaban recibiendo menos de \$100 por semana en beneficios por desempleo debido a la pandemia del COVID-19 desde finales de julio hasta principios de septiembre sean elegibles para recibir \$ 300 adicionales por semana en beneficios federales. La orden les permitiría cobrar retroactivamente durante ese lapso de seis semanas.

El comisionado de Trabajo de Connecticut, Kurt Westby, dijo que la orden ejecutiva del gobernador permitirá que el departamento extienda la asistencia para salarios perdidos a la mayoría de las 38.000 personas que no ganaban lo suficiente generando los \$300 adicionales en asistencia federal. Dijo, que esta orden podría proporcionar a las personas afectadas hasta \$1,800 cada una.

“Vamos a devolver \$ 55 millones a las mamás y papás que trabajan en todo el estado de Connecticut y lo que eso significa en esta temporada navideña en términos de poder quizás obtener algo extra para su hijo en Navidad o Hanukkah”, dijo el gobernador Ned Lamont.

Westby dijo que el programa de asistencia para salarios perdidos utilizó fondos de ayuda en caso de desastre para ayudar a complementar los beneficios por desempleo para más de 160.000 personas en Connecticut y se asignaron \$ 327 millones para el período del 26 de julio al 5 de septiembre.

“Pero LWA tenía un inconveniente significativo”,

dijo Westby. “Para calificar, los trabajadores desempleados tenían que tener un beneficio mínimo de al menos \$ 100 por semana. Este umbral desbloqueó \$ 300 adicionales bajo el programa de asistencia para salarios perdidos”.

Si bien el programa ayudó a más de 160,000 personas en el estado, otras 38,000, muchas de las cuales son personas con bajos salarios, fueron descalificadas porque sus beneficios no alcanzaron el tope, dijo Westby.

La orden ejecutiva del gobernador permitirá que el Departamento de Trabajo del estado utilice el fondo fiduciario del estado para cerrar la brecha de la mayoría de las 38,000 personas que recibieron menos de \$ 100 en beneficios durante las seis semanas desde fines de julio hasta principios de septiembre. “Esto los hace elegibles retroactivamente para los pagos federales de asistencia para salarios perdidos”, dijo Westby. Esto se aplicaría solo para el período de seis semanas.

Se enviará un correo electrónico el sábado, seguido de envíos para la próxima semana.

El gobernador Ned Lamont dijo que la pandemia ha causado estragos en nuestra salud y en los presupuestos de las familias y las pequeñas empresas. Lamont dijo que se han presentado más de un millón de reclamos de asistencia por desempleo desde el comienzo de la pandemia.

Dijo que 38.000 personas que ganan menos de \$ 100 por semana han sido excluidas del apoyo por desempleo. *By Iris Rodriguez*

Doctores de CT le piden al gobernador que cierre el estado, gimnasios y restaurantes piden permanecer abiertos

Un grupo de médicos de Connecticut está pidiendo otro cierre mientras los dueños de negocios luchan por permanecer abiertos.

Esto se produce después de que el estado haya visto una tendencia al alza de casos de COVID-19, por lo que los médicos dicen que pueden ser necesarias más restricciones. El Dr. Luke Davis, que es médico de cabecera en el Hospital Yale-New Haven, dijo: “Estamos en un número de casos aquí en Connecticut que supera en cierto modo los que teníamos en la primavera”. El Dr. Davis es uno de los muchos profesionales médicos que piden mayores restricciones. El esfuerzo de base del grupo llevó a una reunión privada con el gobernador Ned Lamont sobre por qué creen que se necesita otro cierre.

El Dr. Davis dijo: “Puede haber 50-60-70 pacientes en la sala de emergencias esperando ser admitidos, algunos de ellos ya están intubados con ventiladores y necesitan lugares en la UCI”. Con los casos aún en aumento, el estado ahora está casi totalmente en números rojos. Los profesionales médicos dicen que si Lamont cierra el interior de varios restaurantes y cierra los gimnasios, entre otras restricciones, puede ayudar a frenar la propagación.

En un comunicado, la administración de Lamont dijo esto sobre la reunión: “El gobernador tuvo hoy una conversación constructiva y positiva con el grupo de médicos. Agradeció mucho que se tomaran el tiempo para compartir sus pensamientos y experiencias con él. El gobernador Lamont dejó la discusión con un aprecio aún mayor por el trabajo que están haciendo para los pacientes cada día”. Dijo Max Reiss, Director de Comunicaciones. Sin embargo, antes en una conferencia de prensa el martes, el gobernador Lamont dijo que es posible que el estado no tenga que cerrar restaurantes.

El gobernador Lamont dijo: “Estamos encontrando que mucha menos gente va a los restaurantes, así que no estoy seguro de que tengamos que hacer nada, y estamos haciendo todo lo posible para mantenerlos abiertos de forma segura”. “Hemos estado abiertos para comer en el interior durante 4 meses y medio desde el 17 de junio. Sabes que la gente comió dentro y si dijiste o no que era verano o el clima, la gente estaba dentro de nuestros restaurantes en todo el estado y nuestra tasa de positividad era inferior a 1 por ciento durante todo ese tiempo”, dijo Scott Doltch, quien es parte de la Asociación de Restaurantes de Connecticut.

La asociación está haciendo campaña contra el cierre con el hashtag #SaveCTRestaurants.

Los gimnasios como Planet Fitness también están diciendo no a un cierre.

Joe Pepe, director de operaciones de un grupo de franquicias en Planet Fitness, dijo: “Lo que hemos demostrado es que hay menos de una milésima parte de una probabilidad del 1 por ciento de contraer el virus en una de nuestras ubicaciones”.

En refutación, el Dr. Davis dijo: “Ciertamente no queremos enfrentarnos a nadie más en el estado, pero nuestra primera responsabilidad es con nuestros pacientes”.

Los médicos dicen que todavía les preocupa una mayor propagación, pero dicen que si el estado puede aguantar un poco más, la ayuda estará en camino.

El Dr. Davis dijo: “Si podemos unirnos durante unas pocas semanas más, podemos llegar a un lugar en el que podamos comenzar de manera más segura a hacer las cosas que queremos hacer”.

Todavía no hay una palabra oficial si se producirá otro cierre, pero los funcionarios de salud recomiendan a todos que sigan practicando las pautas de salud y seguridad. *By Iris Rodriguez*



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